

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 117913

R 161157Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINR, MZ

SUBJ: FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER DEFECTS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES A-133, DATED AUG 31, 1973 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JOSE ALVES DIAS MUCANGA DEFECTED AND ON OCTOBER 9 TURNED HIMSELF IN TO PORTUGUESE POLICE AT MILANGE ON MALAWIAN FRONTIER. MUCANGA IS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CATECHIST FROM MUNHAMADE IN THE LUGELA AREA OF ZAMBEZIA. REPORTEDLY, HE JOINED FRELIMO IN 1965, IN MALAWI, AND IN NOVEMBER 1967 WAS SENT TO TANZANIA TO SPECIALIZESIN RECRUITING. HE RETURNED TO MALAWI IN AUGUST 1968, AFTER HAVING BEENHELECTDDNMEMBER OF FRELIMO'F CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE RECRUITINGNFRTM MOZAMBIQUE'S ZAMBEZIA DISTRICT. LATER HE WAS PUT IN CHARGE

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OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND INFILTRATION OF WAR MATERIAL

FOR ZAMBEZIA. MUCANGA SAID HE HAD DEFECTED BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILITY OF FRELIMO COLLEAGUES, WHO DISLIKED HIM ON TRIBAL GROUNDS AND BECAUSE HE HAD RISEN SO FAST, WHICH REACHED POINT WHERE HE WAS THREATENED WITH DEATH.

WM COMMENT: THIS IS A LEAST THIRD "HIGH-LEVEL" FRELIMO OFFICIAL TO DEFECT IN LAST FEW MONTHS (SEE REPAIR FOR OTHER RECENT CASES), BUT UNLIKE OTHERS MUCANGA SEEMS TO HAVE DEFECTED ON PURELY PERSONAL GROUNDS. NO DOUBT PORTUGUESE WILL SEEK CONVINCE HIM HIS DECISION, FOR WHATEVER CAUSE, WAS A CORRECT ONE.

3. FOR DARO THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF MUCANGA. HAVE YOU ANY NOTION JUST HOW IMPORTANT A LEADER HE REALLY WAS? PORTUGUESE HAVE UNDERSTANDIBLE TENDENCY EXAGGERATE SIZE OF FISH FALLING INTO THEIR NET.
VAN OSS

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